to the information of Bombay market prices furnished by the Textile Commissioner, between 24.1.87 and 25.7.87, the prices of cotton cone yarn of 40s count has gone up from Rs. 37.83 to Rs. 42.26 per kg. which represents an increase of 12%.

(b) and (c) The export of cotton hosiery have not been affected on account of the price rise. According to information furnished by Apparel Export Promotion Council, the exports of cotton hosiery amounted to Rs. 151 crores in the period January-May, 87 against the exports of Rs. 71 crores during the corresponding period last year, representing an increase of 113%.

Death of an Indian author in USA

1748. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the death of an Indian author and writer in Gridley, Californisa, USA in August 1986;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Embassy in Washington informed the relatives of the author in India;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) whether the property and other assets of the author have been allowed to be sent to India to his relatives by the US authorities through the Indian Embassy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Ram Chandra Jha, an Indian author died in Gridley, California, USA in August, 1986 due to illness.

(c) No, Sir. The Indian Embassy was not informed of the death by the local authorities. They came to know of it from the relatives of the deceased, who were informed direct by the US authorities.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The relatives have been informed that as the deceased author died insolvent, the personal effects can be sent to them provided they meet the transportation costs.

Government purchases

1749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments as well as the DGS&D buy non-ISI certified products despite Central Government's directive to make purchases of ISI marked products as far as possible; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The State Governments have only been advised at the level of Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers in July, 1986 and February, 1987 respectively for increased purchases of ISI marked goods. No monitoring of information about products purchased by State Governments is undertaken by the Central Government. A few State Governments have, however, intimated that they have instructed their Departments to follow the advice of the Central Government for increased purchases of ISI marked goods.

From May, 1986, as a matter of policy, the DGS&D are required to purchase ISI marked products, and to adhere to ISI specifications in cases of non-availability of ISI marked products. DGS&D have, however, to go in for non-ISI marked products in some cases for reasons like (i) non-availability of ISI marked goods, (ii) uncompetitive